

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5810

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: ARREST OF MOSCOW ART COLLECTOR IN LENINGRAD

REFS: A. MOSCOW 18661 B. LENINGRAD 1266

C. LENINGRAD 1278 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE UNOFFICIAL ART COMMUNITY, ART COLLECTOR ALEKSANDR GLEZER (REF A) WAS ARRESTED BY LENINGRAD MILITIA ON FIRST DAY OF LOCAL UNOFFICIAL ART SHOW (REF B) FOR HIS BEHAVIOR AT EVENT. GLEZER WAS SEEN BY EMBASSY AND CONGEN OFFICERS PRESENT TRYING TO TAPE "INTERVIEWS" WITH LENINGRAD ARTISTS AT EXHIBIT HALL, AND ACCORDING TO SEVERAL ARTISTS, GENERALLY "MAKING A PEST OF HIMSELF." GLEZER WILL REPORTEDLY BE RELEASED DECEMBER 31.

2. COMMENT: MOSCOW ARTISTS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE DISENCHANTED WITH GLEZER, FEELING THAT HE IS TRYING TO USE THEM FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. HE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN BUYING UP LARGE NUMBERS OF PICUTRES AT CHEAP PRICES AND HAS TOLD MOSCOW ARTISTS THAT HE HAS A "CHANNEL" FOR GETTING SOVIET UNOFFICIAL ART OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE HAS ALSO SAID THAT WHEN HE

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IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE, HE PLANS TO OPEN "SOVIET

MODERN ART MUSEUM" IN LONDON. SEVERAL ARTISTS
SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF INTEREST IN MODERN SOVIET ART
ABROAD TO SELL OFF PAINTINGS AT HIGH PROFIT.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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